

WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Aid For Our Towns

A very important part of my job representing the people of the 9th state Senate District is ensuring **Cromwell, Middletown, Newington, Rocky Hill** and **Wethersfield** receive their fair share of state funding. I am pleased to report the following grants and reimbursements from the state in Fiscal Year 2009–2010:

	Fiscal Year 09-10
Total Education Grants	\$48,539,953
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$1,019,301
Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant	\$1,994,939
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$940,161
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$10,617,212
Total State Funds to the 9th District	\$63,111,166

Preserving Food for the Poor

After meeting in September with charitable and religious leaders in Middletown, I learned that an unintended consequence in Connecticut law threatened many nonprofits’ ability to provide food to our poor and homeless neighbors. Since we would have a legislative session later that week, I worked with the governor’s office, other legislators and advocates to quickly push through legislation that corrected this flaw. This quick legislative action to correct an injustice and preserve food for our less-fortunate neighbors during these difficult economic times was particularly satisfying to me and reminded me why I participate in public service.



After I volunteered as a Salvation Army bell-ringer at Walmart, the store made three donations to benefit our local food pantries in Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield. On the right, I’m presenting a \$1,000 check to Ken Freidenberg, Director of Human Services for the Town of Newington.



I had the great honor to greet a delegation of elected officials and theatrical artists from Siracusa, Sicily during their visit to Connecticut to participate in the 54th Annual Italian American Celebration Honoring Christopher Columbus. Above, some members of the group pose for a photo in the Senate Chamber of the State Capitol.



State Senator
Paul Doyle

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Dear Neighbor,


The global recession has hit Connecticut hard. You probably know a neighbor or family member that has lost a job or even lost their home. Similarly, the state’s budget deficit reached record high of \$8.5 billion this year.

The new two-year budget passed in September makes tough cuts but also protects local funding for education, small businesses and our seniors.

In addition to needing to achieve a balanced budget, we needed to pass legislation that would help to grow jobs and protect our neighbors who are struggling to survive this recession.

This newsletter will highlight many of the important pieces of legislation that were passed this year such as probate court reform, creating a Silver Alert System for our seniors, and protecting our children.

As always, please feel free to give me a call or send me an e-mail to discuss a question or problem you may have.

Sincerely,

Paul Doyle
State Senator

I’m proud to represent the 9th Senate District:
Cromwell, Middletown, Newington, Rocky Hill & Wethersfield

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State Senator
Paul Doyle
9th District

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Serving Cromwell, Middletown, Newington, Rocky Hill & Wethersfield



State Budget Crisis

As you know, we are currently in the midst of the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. As a result, achieving a state budget compromise between the General Assembly and Governor Rell was not an easy task. In September a budget compromise was finally achieved.

The new two-year budget contained many difficult decisions, including over \$3 billion in spending cuts, and no one is entirely happy with the final budget document. However, we were able to preserve basic services for our state residents, including the safety net for our most vulnerable neighbors during this very difficult economic period.

In the near future, I hope our economy will improve. In the meantime, we will keep working to create jobs and improve the lives of our families in the 9th District.

Probate Court Reform Wins Adoption

As a member of the task force that negotiated the bill and because I introduced the bill in the Senate, I was proud to take a leading role in streamlining our probate court system by reducing the number of probate courts in Connecticut from 117 to 54. The new probate court system will be more consumer friendly, professional, efficient and save the state millions of dollars on an annual basis. This legislation is an example of a successful bipartisan effort that overhauled an outdated and costly system and reformed state government to save taxpayers significant dollars in the state budget.

‘Silver Alert’ System for Missing Seniors

As a result of a bill I introduced in January, we established a ‘Silver Alert’ system to help locate missing seniors and disabled adults, comparable to the AMBER Alert system that helps find missing children. The system will engage public safety agencies in a search for vulnerable persons. The public will be notified through radio, television and electronic highway signs.



Lifesaving Help for Children With Asthma

Should children suffering from asthma and severe allergies be prevented from carrying potentially lifesaving asthma inhalers and “EpiPens” with them at school? The parents of asthmatics and children with allergies believe the answer is no, and urged lawmakers to change the law. Not having these lifesaving devices immediately at hand can have serious health consequences, such as medical complications and hospitalizations. We listened to parents’ concerns and adopted new regulations that allow students to instantly self-administer a lifesaving dose of medicine.

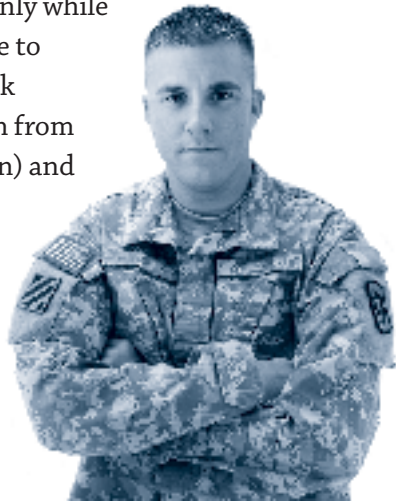


Notifying School Systems about Convicted Sex Offenders

Communication among all levels of government is essential to ensuring the safety of Connecticut’s residents. This legislation requires the Department of Public Safety to notify the superintendent of schools in the community where a sex offender lives or plans to live whenever the registrant is released from prison. The notification includes the registrant’s name, address and general description. It also includes the crime he or she committed that requires registration.

Providing Support for Returning Veterans

Men and women in uniform need support not only while fighting overseas, but also when returning home to civilian life. This legislative session the state took another step to guarantee that those who return from both Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) and Operation Iraqi Freedom are properly cared for when they arrive back in Connecticut. We now ensure that any member of a reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces, or their dependents, can receive transitional behavioral health services when they return.



Criminal Penalties for Identity Theft

Identity theft is a serious crime that can have devastating consequences for victims who spend, on average, \$1,180 and 60 hours cleaning up their credit record. Damaged credit makes it tough to get a good interest rate on a car loan, home mortgage or credit card. This year, we created a new law that expands the definition of “identity theft” and increases the penalties for those who target seniors.

Protecting Connecticut’s Children

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) is responsible for the well-being of many of Connecticut’s families and children. Through state audits and reports from the Office of the Child Advocate, numerous problems have been discovered. As chair of the Human Services Committee, I worked to pass this bill which requires DCF to create a strategic plan, establish an advisory group for each facility it operates, and collect and analyze data of child abuse that involves parents or legal guardians with substance-abuse problems. The biggest beneficiaries of this law are the thousands of children served by DCF.

Safety and Accessibility for Cyclists

Over the last few years, many Connecticut residents have turned to bicycles as a healthy alternative to their regular commute. To help keep our roads safe for cyclists, I co-sponsored legislation this year that requires at least one percent of total funding for any state road improvement project to be spent on bikeways and other cycle-friendly features. It also created an 11-member advisory board that will recommend ways to make our roads more accessible and promote cycling in our state.

